

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 019543

46

ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66607

DRAFTED BY: EB/CBA/BP: DVLABRIE

APPROVED BY: EB/CBA/BP: HJWINTER

----- 066757

P 281546Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019543

FOL REPEAT OF JIDDA 0452 TO USIA INFO SECSTATE USDOC

ABU DHABI KUWAIT JAN 21

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0452

USIAC

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: DIRECTOR GEN. SAUDI TV VOICES EXTREME DISPLEASURE

WITH MPEAA (FILM DISTRIBUTORS U.S. FILMS ABROAD)

PRICING POLICY

REF : USIA 0311; JIDDA 0451 (NOTAL)

1. DURING COURSE DISCUSSION ON DESIRABILITY SADLIK VISIT, TV DIRECTOR GENERAL SHUBAILY DISGRESSIONED TO SUBJECT MPEAA FILM DISTRIBUTION IN ARAB WORLD. SHUBAILY CLAIMED MPEAA USED TO CHARGE FROM \$110.00 TO \$200.00 PER FILM HOUR. FOLLOWING OCT-OBER WAR AND SUBSEQUENT INCREASE IN OIL PRICES SHUBAILY SAID MPEAA UNILATERALLY RAISED PER HOUR COST TO \$200.00 \$500.00 RANGE.

2. SHUBAILY CONVI PED INCREASE DIRECTLY RELATED TO INCREASED OIL PRICES AND PURELY POLITICAL IN ITS MOTIVATION. HE CLAIMS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 019543

TO HAVE SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTATION TO THIS EFFECT. HE CONTINUED

SAUDI GOVERNMENT VIEWS THIS AS FLAGRANT CHALLENGE AND IS NOW ON VERGE RECOMMENDING THAT SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, BAHRAIN, QATAR AND MUSCAT IMPOSE A TOTAL BOYCOTT ON ALL U.S. FILMS DISTRIBUTED BY MPEAA. HE NOTED THAT OVER PAST SIX MONTHS HE HAS REDUCED INTAKE MPEAA FILMS FROM 17 TO 10 PER MONTH.

3. HE SAID HIS VIEWS REFLECTED THOSE OF THE OTHER GULF STATES NOTED IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPH AND THAT QUITE POSSIBLY AT CONFERENCE GULF STATES TV DIRECTORS HE WOULD BE ATTENDING FEB. 6-12, A VOTE TO IMPOSE TOTAL BOYCOTT MAY BE TAKEN. SUCH A MOVE HE SAID WOULD HAVE "GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR USIA AND STATE DEPARTMENT 3 AND THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD APPROACH MPEAA TO DISSUADE THEM FROM CONTINUING PURSUE THEIR PRESENT PRICING POLICY. HIS IMPLICATION SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT BY NOT PERSUADING MPEAA OF THEIR FOLLY, WE, THE USG, WERE IN EFFECT, CONDONING WHAT HE ALLEGES TO BE THE POLITICAL MOTIVATION BEHIND THE INCREASE.

4. SHUBAILY CALCULATED THAT TOTAL LOSS OF REVENUES TO MPEAA FROM SAUDI ARABIA ALONE WOULD BE \$125,000.00 HE ADDED THAT BY UNANIMOUSLY VOTING FOR BOYCOTT DURING THEIR FEBRUARY CONFERENCE GULF STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCE OTHER ARAB AND ISLAMIC COUNTRIES TO DETRIMENT OF MPEAA.

5. DIRECTOR GENERAL REQUESTED THAT HIS VIEWS BE PASSED ON TO APPROPRIATE U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS "BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

ACTION: AGENCY COORDINATE APPROACH TO MPEAA WITH STATE AND COMMERCE AND COME BACK WITH GUIDANCE FOR PAO WHO TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MEET WITH SHUBAILY IN RIYADH JAN. 26 IN CONNECTION WITH TIME "NEWSTOUR".
RUGGIERO UNQTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FILMS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE019543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/CBA/BP: DVLABRIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0407
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750113/aaaaalrp.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USIA 0311, 75 JIDDA 0451
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIRECTOR GEN. SAUDI TV VOICES EXTREME DISPLEASURE WITH MPEAA (FILM DISTRIBUTORS U.S. FILMS ABROAD)
TAGS: SCUL, BA, US
To: MANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006